

REMARKS

The drawings are objected to for the reasons noted in the official action, referencing the planet gears with both reference numerals 12 and 18. All of the raised drawing objections are believed to be overcome by the requested drawing amendments accompanying this Response in which reference numeral 18 is amended so as to generally designate the steering gear while reference numeral 12 designates the planet gears. The accompanying new Replacement Sheet of formal drawing incorporates all of the requested drawing amendment(s). If any further amendment to the drawings is believed necessary, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

Claim 15 is objected to for the reasons noted in the official action. The above requested cancellation of claim 15 is believed to overcome all of the raised informalities concerning this case. If any further amendment to any of the pending claims is believed necessary, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

Claims 11-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons noted in the official action. The rejected claims are accordingly amended, by the above claim amendments, and all of the presently pending claims are now believed to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention, thereby overcoming all of the raised § 112, second paragraph, rejections. The entered claim amendments are directed solely at overcoming the raised indefiniteness rejection(s) and are not directed at distinguishing the present invention from the art of record in this case.

In addition, the above amendments to paragraph of the specification now provide antecedent basis for both the first and the second drive shafts 2, 9. The undersigned avers that amended paragraph [025] of the specification does not contain any new subject matter.

Next, claims 11, 13-15 and 19-21 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Miller '425 (U.S. Patent No. 2,779,425) in view of Nozawa '338 (GB 2055338A) and Avitan '598 (U.S. Patent No. 5,128,598), claims 16 and 17 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Miller '425, Nozawa '338 and Avitan '598 and in further view of Oldakowski '018 (U.S. Patent No. 5,121,018), and claim 18 is rejected, under

35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Miller `425, Nozawa `338 and Avitan `598 and in further view of Burenkov et al. `809 (U.S. Patent No. 4,234,809). The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses all of the raised obviousness rejection in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 12 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim(s). In accordance with this indication, the subject matter of claim 12 is incorporated into independent claim 11 claim and amended claim 11 is now believed to be allowable. As claims 16-21 each depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 11, those dependent claims are believed to be allowable as well.

In addition, as suggested by the Examiner, the subject matter of claim 12 is incorporated into independent claims 13 and 14 and both of those amended independent claims are also now believed to be allowable in view of such amendment.

In view of the above claim cancellations and amendments, the Applicant respectfully submits that further comments concerning the applied prior art of Miller `425, Nozawa `338, Avitan `598, Oldakowski `018 and/or Burenkov et al. `809 is not believed necessary. The Applicant also notes the remaining prior art cited in the official action. As none of that additional art is applied by the Examiner against the claims of this application, the Applicant is not providing any comments concerning that art as well.

If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn at this time. If the Examiner disagrees with the Applicant's view concerning the withdrawal of the outstanding rejection(s) or applicability of the Miller `425, Nozawa `338, Avitan `598, Oldakowski `018 and/or Burenkov et al. `809 references, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate the specific passage or passages, or the drawing or drawings, which contain the necessary teaching, suggestion and/or disclosure

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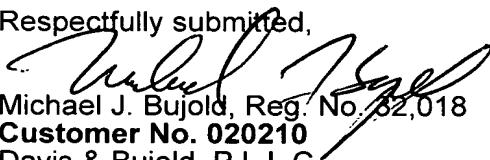
required by case law. As such teaching, suggestion and/or disclosure is not present in the applied references, the raised rejection should be withdrawn at this time. Alternatively, if the Examiner is relying on his/her expertise in this field, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter an affidavit substantiating the Examiner's position so that suitable contradictory evidence can be entered in this case by the Applicant.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn and this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

The Applicant respectfully requests that any outstanding objection(s) or requirement(s), as to the form of this application, be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated for this case.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Bujold, Reg. No. 62,018

Customer No. 020210

Davis & Bujold, P.L.L.C.

112 Pleasant Street

Concord, NH 03301-2931

Telephone 603-226-7490

Facsimile 603-226-7499

E-mail: patent@davisandbujold.com

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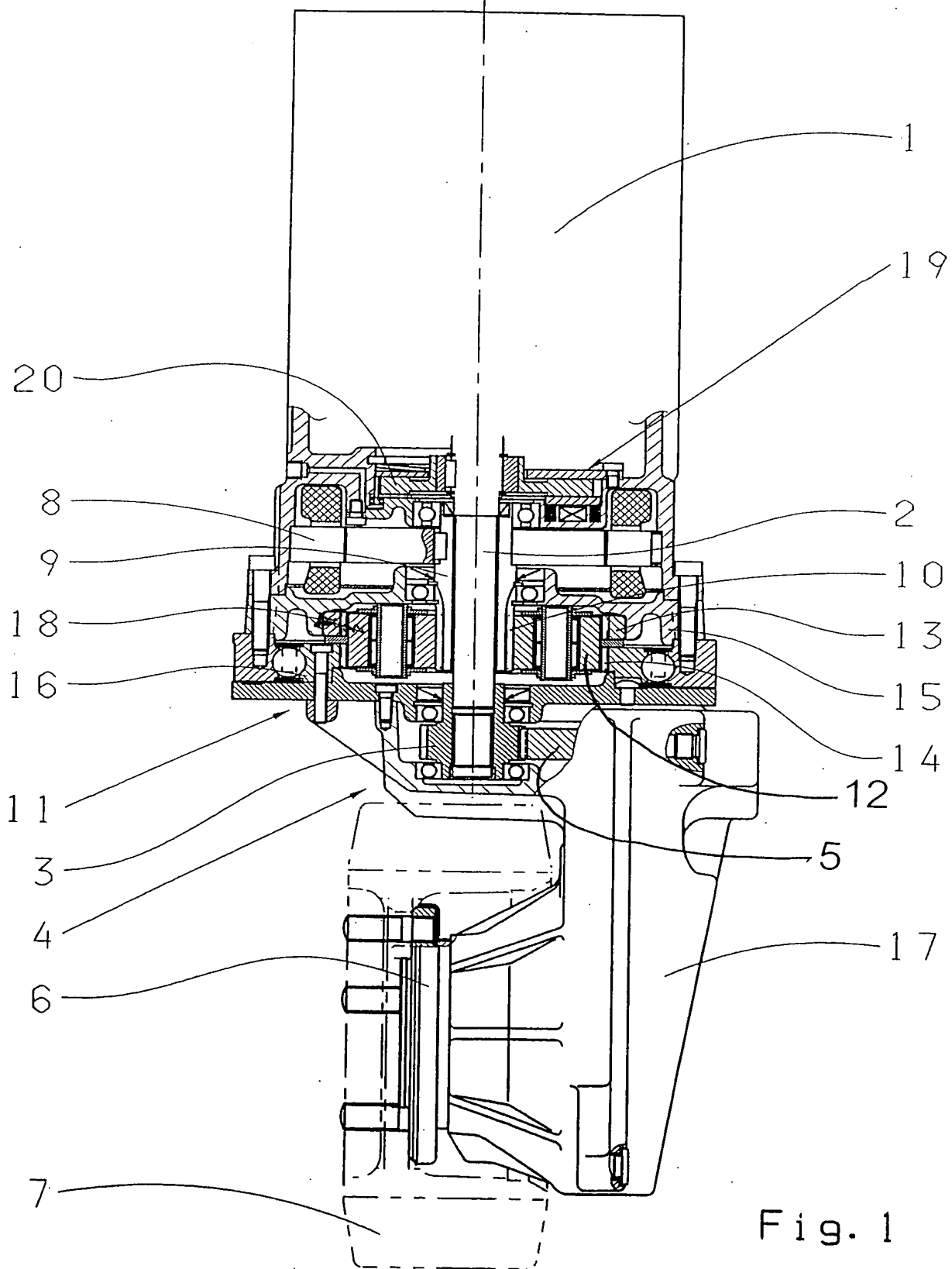


Fig. 1